



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



2008 ANNUAL REPORT SANTA BARBARA SISTER CITIES BOARD for the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Madam Mayor:

I am pleased to submit this report of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board for the year ending June 30, 2008. Santa Barbara has five sister city partnerships: Dingle, Ireland; Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; San Juan/Manila, Philippines; Toba City, Japan; and Weihai, China. Accompanying this report are individual reports from the SB-Puerto Vallarta organization, the SB-Toba City organization, and the SB-Weihai organization.

In terms of important events/developments during the year I would note the following:

- * We organized and presented a 9/11 Peace Concert in Casa de la Guerra on September 11, 2007, to commemorate this important date in US history and to celebrate the 51st anniversary of the founding of Sister Cities. Similar concerts were held in over 100 cities in this country and abroad.
- * We organized and presented the 16th annual UN Dinner in Santa Barbara at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion on October 25, 2007. Food dishes were provided by all five sister city organizations, entertainment was by The Adelfos Ensemble, and a good time was had by all.
- * We opened dialogue with representatives of Kotor, Montenegro, helped form a committee of local citizens, and hope to get approval in 2008-2009 of the SB-Kotor Sister City partnership.
- * The SB-Puerto Vallarta Sister City organization continued to do excellent work as detailed in the accompanying report and too numerous to attempt to summarize here. In addition, members of that organization provide assistance, encouragement and leadership to the other sister cities, which is greatly appreciated.
- * The SB-Toba Sister City organization celebrated its 40th anniversary by taking a delegation of 20 people from Santa Barbara on a tour of Japan, including a three day visit to Toba in October.
- * In May the SB-Toba Sister City organization sponsored a bus trip to tour the Japanese-American Heritage Museum in Los Angeles and plans to arrange similar tours in future years to other museums and live cultural offerings.
- * Twenty teachers from the Santa Barbara and Carpinteria school districts traveled to Weihai to participate in the Second Conversational English Program; while there SB-Weihai Sister City members presented children books with audio tapes to the Nan Shan Elementary School.
- * In February five delegates from Shandong University visited Santa Barbara and were hosted by members of the SB-Weihai Sister City organization and others.

*** Since early 2008 members of the SB-Puerto Vallarta and the SB-Weihai Sister City organizations have been meeting with Kathy Koury of the Children Creative Project and others to plan a Street Chalk Festival in Weihai in June 2009.**

Finally, I would note that the SB-Weihai and the SB-San Juan sister city organizations have new leadership this year and are active again, to the delight of all.

In closing I want to acknowledge the outstanding service of my fellow City Council appointees, Takako Wakita and Janet Baker, and the support of Councilman Roger Horton.

Respectfully,

**Gerald F. Corrigan, Chair
September 15, 2008**